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Smallburgh Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1945.

SECTION A.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	70,017
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	15,690
Population (1945, estimated)	...	...	...	15,270
Structurally separate dwellings (1931 Census)—Occupied				4,376
			Unoccupied	433
Rateable Value, £59,295.				
Estimated Penny Rate, £252.				

LIVE BIRTHS

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	259	146	113
Illegitimate	39	25	14
Total	298	171	127

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 19.51.

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Total	6	4	2

STILLBIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births, 19.73.

DEATHS

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.16.

Deaths from PUERPERAL SEPSIS :—Nil

Deaths from other maternal causes :—Nil.

Deaths of INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :—

Legitimate	12	8	4
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Total	14	9	5

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	46.97
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			46.33

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	23
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH			TOTAL	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever	...	...	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	3	2	1
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	6	3	3
Tuberculosis (other forms)	...	...	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	1	1	—
Cancer	...	...	23	10	13
Diabetes	...	...	2	2	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	22	7	15
Heart Disease	...	...	53	27	26
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	6	2	4
Bronchitis	...	...	14	9	5
Pneumonia	...	...	4	2	2
Other Respiratory Disease	...	...	7	4	3
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	2	2	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1	1	—
Appendicitis	...	...	2	—	2
Other Digestive Disease	...	...	3	1	2
Nephritis	...	...	3	3	—
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Disease	...	...	—	—	—
Prematurity	...	...	4	3	1
Con. Mal. Birth Inj.	...	...	—	—	—
Infant. Dis.	...	...	7	4	3
Suicide	...	...	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	1	1	—
Other Violent Causes	...	...	3	1	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	29	13	16
Ill-defined or Not Known	...	...	201	100	101

**Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality,
Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious
Diseases in the Year 1945.**

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

				England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County
				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population			
BIRTHS—							
Live Births	...	...	...	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7
Still „	...	...	...	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40
DEATHS—							
All Causes	...	...	...	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Influenza	...	...	...	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
NOTIFICATIONS—							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31
Smallpox	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	...	...	...	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	46	54	43	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	...	...	...	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6
NOTIFICATIONS—							
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	—	—	15.87

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—England and Wales.

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis 0.25	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis 0.08	No. 147 Puerperal Infections 0.24	Nos. 142-6; 148-150 Other 1.22	No. 140 with Sepsis 18	No. 141 without Sepsis 6
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SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.

D. G. SHIELDS, M.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
A. L. TAUNTON, C.R.S.I., SANITARY INSPECTOR.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Norfolk County Laboratory (now replaced by E.P.H. Laboratory, Norwich).

AMBULANCE SERVICES are obtained from the British Red Cross Society at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, North Walsham, Martham and Great Yarmouth Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation.
- (b) Private hire in infectious diseases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. None in District.

HOSPITALS. Norfolk and Norwich, Jenny Lind (Children), Great Yarmouth and North Walsham Cottage Hospitals all take cases from the area. Infectious cases for which isolation is considered necessary are admitted to the County Isolation Hospital at Dereham. The Coltishall Nursing Home unfortunately remains closed owing to Staff difficulties, but is expected to re-open in 1946.

				TOTAL.	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	DEATHS.
Dysentery	...	...	...	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	2	1	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	1 (unconfirmed)	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	22	14	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	115	1	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	11	10	1
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	113	2	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	—	—
Jaundice	...	...	...	23	1	—
Malaria	...	...	...	1	1	—
C. S. Meningitis	...	...	...	1	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	5	3	—
				303	34	11

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1945 a further 376 children were immunised against diphtheria under the Council's scheme, compared with 187 children in 1944. 232 were children under the age of five. In all, 2,904 children have been immunised out of an estimated child-population of 3,490, giving an immunisation percentage of 83. Eleven cases of diphtheria were notified during the year; all were eventually traced to a single carrier. In addition, one death from the complications of diphtheria presumably contracted during the above mentioned epidemic occurred in Hospital. This child had not been immunised, of the other 11 cases, 8 had not been immunised and 3 had been immunised with small doses which would not now be considered adequate. None of these three cases was severe. In the endeavour to check this outbreak and to trace the possible cause over 200 "contacts" were swabbed.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases during 1944.

Deaths during 1944.

Aged		Respiratory							Respiratory				
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Totals			Males	Females	Males	Females	Totals
under 1		—	—	—	—	—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
" 1 to 5		—	—	—	—	—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
" 5 to 15		—	—	2	1	3	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
" 15 to 25		3	1	1	1	6	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
" 25 to 35		2	4	1	—	7	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
" 35 to 45		—	1	1	—	2	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
" 45 to 55		—	—	—	—	—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
" 55 to 65		1	—	—	—	1	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
" 65 over		—	1	1	—	2	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Totals		6	7	6	2	21	Totals		1	2	—	1	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The total number of Cowkeepers, Dairy men and Retailers is	...	179
Inspections of Cowkeepers	...	241
Inspections of Dairy men	...	157
Inspections of Retailers	...	144

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936-38.

Number of "T.T." Producers	...	29
" " "Accredited" producers	...	26

MILK SAMPLING.

The total number of samples taken was 150, as under :-

	Number taken	Passed	Failed	Broken in transit
For examination for Tubercle Bacilli	89	74	—	15
Accredited Samples ...	61	46	15	—

I am pleased to report that improvements in dairies and cowsheds are still being carried out. Much more would be done if labour and materials were freely available, and I should like to congratulate the producers on the efforts they are making in the matter of pure milk production.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED UNDER THE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER OF 1938.

April	...	...	1 cow	...	tuberculosis confirmed
December	...	...	2 cows	...	" "

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The number of slaughterhouses in use in the District is as follows :—

Registered	...	...	...	...	15
Licensed	...	...	...	...	7

During the year a total of 89 inspections were carried out by the Inspector and myself, and in three cases it was necessary to issue a warning that the premises were not being kept clean. At present all slaughtering for this district is carried out at Great Yarmouth, and apart from dealing with casualties, the slaughterhouses are not being used.

The number of licensed slaughtermen is 14.

BUTCHERS SHOPS.

There are 34 butchers shops in the district, and all are well constructed and kept in good condition.

CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS.

Meat :—	121 lbs beef
	4 „ pigs fry
	14 „ pork (English)
	66 „ pork (Imported)
	45 „ bacon
Other Foods :—	12 „ cheese

<i>Tinned Foods.</i>						<i>No. of tins</i>
Corned beef (18 lbs.)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Luncheon Meats, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	159
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	123
Pilchards	...	...	...	...	...	115
Mackerel	...	...	...	...	...	15
Herrings	...	...	...	...	...	15
Salmon	...	...	...	...	...	83
Crayfish	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	84
Sardines	...	...	...	...	...	13
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	37
Marmalade*	...	...	...	...	...	37

* In one consignment of marmalade, 29 tins were found to be defective, and the contents unfit for consumption.

GENERAL.

WATER SUPPLIES.

- (i) There has been no actual shortage of water for domestic purposes during the past year, although it has been noticed that the level of water in the shallow wells is falling, and unless there is a reasonable rainfall in the coming year it is anticipated that many of these wells will dry up.
The Council has received a report on piped water supplies for the district from their consulting engineer, and under this report a proposed comprehensive water supply scheme has been prepared, to be developed in three stages. This proposed scheme is now being considered by the Council.
- (ii) The Parish of Hoveton is supplied by the City of Norwich Waterworks, and no complaints concerning the quality or quantity of the supply have been received. Reports from the analyst have been regularly received and these state that the supply is of good quality and free from pollution.
At Stalham where the Council has a mains supply, the water level in the bore shows little variation. This supply is chlorinated before passing into the mains, and no complaints have been received. The analyst reports as follows :— “ This supply retains its excellent organic quality. There is a decrease in hardness since the last analysis. The water is quite suitable for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply. The sample is free from separated iron.” The permanent degree of hardness after boiling is 4.9.
- (iii) No reports have been received of contamination by lead.
- (iv) Twelve samples of well water were submitted to the Public Analyst during the past year, and his reports show that 7 samples were good, one was of poor quality but not unfit, and that 4 were impure and unfit for domestic purposes. In the latter cases the wells were closed and alternative supplies utilised.

- (v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains.

PARISH OF HOVETON: Estimated number of Houses	...	...	...	390
Number of houses having direct supply into the house	...	...	...	36
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	...	138
Number of houses supplied by means of stand-pipes	...	...	...	Nil
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	...	Nil
PARISH OF STALHAM: Estimated number of Houses	...	...	...	360
Number of houses having direct supply into the house	...	...	...	165
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	...	506
Number of houses supplied by means of stand-pipes	...	...	...	17
Estimated number of persons supplied	...	...	...	65

It is in my opinion a matter for regret that the Councils 90 houses situated along the Stalham Road, Hoveton, are not yet provided with a piped water supply although a mains supply has been available there for some years.

The Council is now embarking upon an extensive water-supply scheme for the whole district, the object of which is surely that householders should be able to enjoy the amenity so provided.

I would respectfully suggest that the Council should set an example to other property owners by offering a piped water supply to its tenants wherever it is available.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	271
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	184
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the housing regulations	...	...	144
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	157
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	42

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	41
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936.						
Notices that question of demolition would be considered	...	...	...	...	...	4
Demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	...	1
Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	...	...	1
Notices to execute works	...	...	...	...	...	8

The Council owns 685 dwellings, as under :—

1919 (Assisted Scheme)	...	...	...	...	...	48
1923 Acts	...	...	...	...	...	6
1924 Acts	...	...	...	...	...	412
1931 (Rural Authorities) Act	...	...	...	...	...	28
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	58
1936 Act (Overcrowding)	...	...	...	...	...	34
1938 Act (Overcrowding) and Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	3
(Accommodation of Members of Agri. Pop.)	...	...	...	...	...	19
Not subsidised	...	...	...	...	...	77

REQUISITIONING.

The Council has requisitioned 17 properties, and these have been let to families in need of accommodation. It is proposed to requisition other properties as these become available.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926 TO 1938.

Applications received under these Acts.

Parish	Number of Houses	Purpose of Application	Decision of the District Council
Sloley	2	Grant for reconditioning	Grant of £200 offered
Honing	1	do.	Grant of £100 offered
Smallburgh	2	do.	Grant of £200 offered
Dilham	2	do.	Grant of £200 offered
East Ruston	2	do.	Grant of £200 offered
Sloley	1	do.	Grant of £100 offered
Tunstead	3	do.	Grant of £300 offered
Tunstead	1	do.	Grant of £100 offered
Happisburgh	2	Conversion of farmhouse into two Cottages	Grant of £200 offered
Brumstead	1	Additional bedroom and living rooms to Cottage	Grant of £100 offered
Sloley	2	Grant for reconditioning	Grant of £200 offered

NUISANCES.

A total of 38 nuisances were reported during the year, and were as follows:—

Dumping of Nightsoil	2
Cesspools overflowing	6
Defective drains	10
Dumping house refuse	2
Dumping unsound food by military	1
Overcrowding	4
Dirty Dwellings	6
Defective Closets	2
Offensive refuse dumps	5

All these nuisances were investigated and suitable action taken and all were abated with the exception of one case of overcrowding.

SCAVENGING.

The Council has Schemes in force in the Parishes of Hoveton and Stalham. In these parishes collection of nightsoil and house refuse is made, under contract with local persons. The Council provides vehicles which are horse-drawn in one parish and tractor-drawn in the other. Owing to the difficulty of securing adequate and suitable labour for the work, many complaints have been received, and the service given has not been as good as the Council would wish. The Council is now considering the purchase of suitable motor vehicles for this work and cesspool emptying, and hopes to operate these vehicles under a direct labour scheme.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

- A Scheme has been prepared by the Council for the sewerage of the Parish of Stalham, and has been submitted to the Minister of Health.
- A report has also been submitted by a Consulting Engineer under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, on Sewerage for the Rural District, and this report is being considered by the Council.
- I am of the opinion that sewerage schemes for the parishes of Horning, Hoveton, and Stalham are urgently needed, and should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

INFESTATION ORDER, S.R. & O., No. 680, 1943.

The Council carries out this work, employing one trained rodent operative working under the direction of the senior sanitary inspector, and the whole of the area is being systematically dealt with. A charge is made for the service of the operative but in needy cases this charge is waived and disinfestation is carried out free. The poison now being used is zinc phosphide, and this has proved to be effective.

Particulars of the year's work are as follows:—

Total number of properties dealt with	1437
Number of properties found to be infested	759
„ „ pre-baits laid	20,152
„ „ poison baits laid	6920
„ „ dead rats found and destroyed	2812
„ „ dead mice found and destroyed	237

Payments received for services of operative:—£119 14s. 6d.

The undermentioned parishes have been dealt with during the year:—

Ashmanhaugh, Bacton, Barton Turf, Dilham, East Ruston, Happisburgh, Honing, Hoveton, Felmingham, Ingham, Lessingham, Neatishead, Palling, Paston, Scottow, Smallburgh, Stalham, Sutton, Swafeld, Swanton Abbott Tunstead, Westwick, Witton, and Worstead.

Isolated complaints from other parishes have also been attended to and particular attention has been paid to two refuse dumps used by the Council.

D. G. SHIELDS,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. TAUNTON,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
July, 1946.

